

H.R. 2116, VETERANS MILLENNIUM HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, America's veterans are forgotten far too often. My colleagues and I are committed to protecting veterans' programs and ensuring that our nation honors its commitment to our men and women in the military. To do anything less would be to abandon the very principles that veterans fought so hard to preserve.

We are committed to securing our veterans' future and are working now to provide funding to honor our promise to them. Last week the House of Representatives approved the Veterans Administration/Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, which contained a \$1.7 billion increase for veterans health care, totaling \$196 billion.

Yesterday, Congress passed the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act, which expands veterans eligibility for care and dramatically improves the care provided to veterans in their homes. The expanded care includes geriatric evaluations, nursing home care, adult day health care, and other types of home health care. The act also requires the Veterans Administration to operate and maintain a national program of extended services.

The Veterans Millennium Health Care Act coupled with the funds provided in our annual veterans appropriations legislation, affirms our nation's appreciation for our aging veterans and our commitment to provide them with the health care they will need in the coming years. I thank my colleagues for supporting veterans by voting in favor of this crucial legislation.

MR. RAY ARVIZU, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE U.S. HCC

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ray Arvizu's recent election to Chair the Board of Directors for the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC). I am confident that the experience, knowledge and passion Mr. Arvizu brings with him will ensure the continued growth and effectiveness of the USHCC.

For more than 15 years, Mr. Arvizu has pledged his time and talents to promote and elevate marketing to Hispanics. In recent years, Mr. Arvizu has guided his company, Arvizu Promotions and Marketing Events, in Phoenix, Arizona, onto the short list of Arizona's most successful ad agencies. From the beginning, hard work and dedication to be the best have been Mr. Arvizu's hallmark.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Arvizu has been active within the Hispanic and local communities throughout his career. He currently serves on several distinguished boards, including: the Boys and Girls

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Club of Metropolitan Phoenix, Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and the Grand Canyon Minority Council. He is also the Co-Chair of the National Community of Latino Leadership Forum and prior to his election to Chair the USHCC, Mr. Arvizu served as the Vice-Chair of the Chamber.

As the former Vice-Chair of the Chamber and successful businessman, Mr. Arvizu has demonstrated the foresight and creative energy which make him an asset in all his endeavors. Without a doubt, these traits will serve him well as he continues to fulfill the USHCC mission: To advocate, promote and facilitate the success of Hispanic businesses.

I wish him the best of luck as he leads the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce into the new millennium.

HONORING THE NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF ARMENIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia (NCOA) for their performances around the world and genuine cultural representation of their country.

The NCOA consists of 25 of the most accomplished instrumentalists in the young republic under the baton of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Aram Gharabekian. They have been honored with great success in the past, such as representing Armenia in 1997 at the Cultural Capital of Europe Festival in Thessaloniki, Greece. And in December 1998, the orchestra released a compact disk through PolyGram/Germany presenting a synthesis of ancient and contemporary works of Armenian composers. At home, the NCOA performs every third week at the Komitas Chamber Music Hall in Yerevan. In addition, the orchestra performs around the globe and has toured Europe, South America, and the United States.

Conductor Gharabekian was born in the Old World in 1955 and moved to the United States as a youth. He received his Master's Degree in Music Composition from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and engaged in postgraduate studies at Mainz University in Germany. Maestro Gharabekian's numerous honors include the Lucien Wulsin Performance Award for the best concert aired on National Public Radio; the American Society of Composers' Award for adventuresome programming; the Harvard Music Association's "Best Performance Award," and the Boston Globe's "Best of the Year" designation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the achievements of the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, for being one of the leading instrumental groups of the Republic of Armenia and sharing such beautiful cultural music across the world. It is Principal Conductor Aram Gharabekian's exceptional leadership and devotion that has warranted this recognition, and has lead to the success of the orchestra. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the National Chamber Orchestra of

Armenia and Conductor Gharabekian many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, due to mechanical difficulties with my flight from my district I missed rollcall vote 429. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

HONORING COAST GUARD VOLUNTEER JIM CLOUD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the citizens of Crescent City in honoring Jim Cloud, who for 6 years served without pay as Crescent City Harbor's sole marine safety examiner for the U.S. Coast Guard.

During the August district work period, Jim was honored by his volunteer peers and the Coast Guard for his dedication to marine safety. Indeed, Jim was known for taking his job seriously and, as the Coast Guard said during the ceremony honoring him, Jim "contributed to the overall safety of more than 425 fishermen and 170 fishing vessels."

Crescent City Harbor is home to more than 25 percent of the fishing vessel fleet between the Oregon border and San Francisco Bay. The coastal waters fished by these vessels are treacherous and the weather ever-changing. As such, the role of the marine safety examiner is critical to ensuring that commercial vessels are seaworthy and prepared for any emergency.

For Jim, the work was a labor of love. Coming from a long family history of seamen, Jim joined the Brookings Coast Guard Auxiliary in the mid-1980's. During his tenure, he assisted the Coast Guard in search and rescues and teaching boating and safety classes.

But, in particular, his service as a marine safety examiner will always be remembered and appreciated. In conferring its Award of Operational Merit, the Coast Guard acknowledged that Jim's efforts "helped reduce the number of fishermen deaths, injuries, as well as property loss and environmental damage."

To which Jim replied "I feel good about doing my little part. It was a good deal for the harbor and a good deal for me."

Thank you, Jim, for a job well done.

TRAGEDY IN TAIWAN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in great sadness to recognize the enormous